

school, any kind of college tuition, people of any age? Why shouldn't we do it? We can pay for it. I'm for that.

And I'm for balancing the budget, too, because that will lower your interest rates on your student loans, your car payments, your house payments, on your credit card payments. It will lower your interest rates. It will keep interest rates down for business loans so that we can keep creating new jobs and build on the economic record of the last 4 years. But I am not for doing it and using that as an excuse to wreck Medicaid, which has given our commitment, our solemn commitment of health care to poor children, to the elderly in nursing homes, most of them themselves the parents of middle class families. I don't want to see us walk away from middle class working families who because of Medicaid have had family members with disabilities who could live in dignity without driving their families into poverty. We don't have to do that to balance the budget, and I won't do it.

We don't have to cut back on education or environmental protection. And we have to continue investing in research and technology. Yesterday, folks, I was in Houston, and I welcomed home that magnificent astronaut Shannon Lucid when she came home after 6 months. A lot of you saw her come home. When she was a little girl, she told an adult she wanted to be a rocket scientist when she grew up. And she was told, there is no such thing, and if there were it wouldn't be a girl. [Laughter] Well, guess what? There are a lot of them now, and a lot of them are women. And the young girls of America and the young women liked seeing Shannon Lucid up there.

What is the point of that? President Kennedy believed we could go into space and make a success of the space program, and he fought for it. I'm glad he did. I'm glad he supported it. I'm glad I have supported it. And I'm glad

we've still got it. And I think those who thought it shouldn't be done were wrong. We have to continue to invest in research to build a better future. I want the young people here to be able to do those jobs of the future. We are today building a supercomputer with IBM that will do more calculations in one second than you can do on a hand-held calculator in 30,000 years. And we have to do that.

We are today seeing experiments with laboratory animals whose spines have been severed, who have movement in their lower limbs again because of nerve transplants. We have doubled the life expectancy of people with HIV and AIDS in only 4 years. We have to keep going and investing, and we're better off when we do that, building a better future, being on the right side of history, building that bridge.

So here's what I want to know from you. For 38 days, for 38 days, will you help us build that bridge to the 21st century? [Applause] Will you talk to your friends and your neighbors, your coworkers, people in Massachusetts and your friends beyond in other States and say, we have got to keep building that bridge to the 21st century, and we've got to go across it together? We cannot be divided by race, by gender, by religion, by ethnic group. We are a great, great country, and our best days are still ahead if we are committed to going across that bridge together. Will you do it?

*Audience members.* Yes!

*The President.* Then we'll prevail. Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:04 p.m. at Kennedy Park. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Edward Lambert, Jr., of Fall River; State Representative Joan Menard; Senator Edward Kennedy's wife, Vicki; Senator John Kerry's wife, Teresa Heinz; and Sheila Levesque, who introduced the President.

## Remarks on the Omnibus Budget Agreement and an Exchange With Reporters in Boston, Massachusetts September 28, 1996

*The President.* Good evening. Early this morning we reached an important agreement with

Congress to continue balancing the budget while we invest in education, protect the environment,

and keep our streets safe. This budget agreement was a victory for our values and a victory for the American people. It was also, in particular, a victory for the people of Massachusetts.

I want to talk briefly about three things in particular that are important to this State. First, the budget agreement includes \$50 million that can be used for shipyard reactivation. Today I have instructed Secretary Pena to complete negotiations for a binding letter of commitment to revitalize the Quincy Shipyard, which we just flew over, and to do it within 30 days after I sign the budget.

I especially want to thank Senator Kerry, Senator Kennedy, and Congressman Studds for their hard work to include this provision in the budget agreement. Their work will help to create a world-class shipbuilding operation to bring new jobs, new technology, and new opportunity to the people of Quincy.

Second, the budget includes important funds to continue the cleanup of Boston Harbor. Last year Senator Kerry and Senator Kennedy joined us to stop congressional efforts to walk away from that commitment. And because of their work this year we are going to keep moving forward to make the Boston Harbor safe, clean, and healthy.

Finally, I want to say a word about our ongoing effort to streamline our Government. We're working hard to overhaul Defense Department management while maintaining an unwavering commitment to the best equipped, trained Armed Forces in the world. We've closed 228 of the Defense Department's more than 300 finance and accounting facilities, while working hard to improve training for Defense Department financial managers. Today I'm pleased to announce that the budget agreement also includes funds to establish a financial management education center at Southbridge, Massachusetts. The Pentagon will release \$5 million for the center's development next week, and classes will begin on March 1, 1997, 18 months ahead of schedule. The Southbridge center would not be happening today without the leadership of Senator Kerry, Senator Kennedy, and Congressman Neal.

This budget agreement shows what we can do when we work hard on things that really matter to the American people. It creates opportunity by working to revitalize the shipbuilding industry, takes responsibility by working to reform our Government in a responsible way while providing the best training to our Armed Forces. It strengthens our community by continuing our efforts to clean up our environment here at the Boston Harbor. We are on the right track to the 21st century, and I am very pleased about it.

Now I'd like to ask the Senators each to say a word.

*[At this point, Senator John F. Kerry and Senator Edward M. Kennedy made brief remarks.]*

*Q.* Mr. President, aren't these programs—*[inaudible]*—election-year pork?

*The President.* Well, for one reason, I've been working on these things for far more than one year. The Southbridge project is a big project, goes back several years. The Boston Harbor project was going on before I got here. The Quincy project developed when they had a person interested in going there.

So we've been working very hard on it, and I think if they didn't have independent merit, it would have been difficult for us to get them in these times, which have been particularly contentious. So I think, you know, every one of these things will stand on its own merit. But the people in Boston have paid an enormous amount out of their own pockets to clean up the Boston Harbor, and it would have been unconscionable for us to walk away from our continuing commitment to that. These other two projects we've been working on, waiting for, for a very long time. It's not something that just came up overnight tied to the election cycle. This is a multiyear effort, and I want to congratulate all the community leaders who are here. They're the ones that ultimately deserve the credit for bringing this day to bear.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:40 p.m. at Logan Airport.